

to Sam's legacy as an educator that an elementary school proudly bears his name today, the "Sam V. Curtis Elementary School."

It is impossible to find a former student whose life has not been changed positively by Sam, whether it is the beat cop on the street or the waitress in the corner coffee shop. Everyone can point to a turning point where Sam's teaching caused each to embark upon a course of action.

In his long life of public service, Sam embraced the principle that one person can make a difference, by leading by example, getting people involved, touching everything and everyone in the community, leaving his mark like a modern-day Johnny Appleseed.

Elected to the Rialto city council in 1976, Sam was known as a consumer advocate, fighting for the underdog, championing just causes such as discounts for senior citizens. He was unafraid to speak his mind and fight for what he believed, with passion, honor, vigor, and resoluteness. He would not compromise his beliefs.

People looked up to Sam because of his respect for the community and his integrity as a person. Fair and courteous, even to those with whom he disagreed on the issues, he was beloved by all. We can learn much by his example.

People were very proud of Sam, admiring his efforts and good works, whether it was fighting for the people as an elected official, or carrying on good works in the community through groups such as the Democratic Central Committee; the San Bernardino County Democratic luncheon club; Friends of the Rialto K-9's; the California Teachers Association; the Rialto Exchange Club; the Veterans Employment Committee; the Retired Teachers Association; the Rialto Historical Society; and the Sierra Club.

I would like to offer my condolences to Sam's family: his wife, Eileen; his three sons, Victor, David and Philip; his daughter, Patricia; his ten grandchildren; and his great-grandchild.

To Sam, we say: "our thoughts and prayers lift upwards to heaven, where surely you are at peace. And so we say 'goodbye, we miss you, God bless you. We shall remember you always, and your good deeds will live in our hearts.'"

VETERANS DAY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, last week, Americans paused to give thanks and to honor the veterans who have served our nation in times of war and in time of peace. The dedication of our women and men in uniform makes our nation strong and keeps us free.

I have made it my personal mission in Congress to ensure that our citizens and our government neither forget nor ignore the debt we owe to those who serve the United States so

nobly. In wartime, the very best young people our country produces are asked to risk and possibly lose their lives in order to advance our national interests. In peacetime, serving as an airman, sailor, soldier, or marine also requires a great deal of hard work and sacrifice. Whether in war or in peace, those sacrifices are particularly difficult for the service members' families.

Just before Veterans Day, I received a copy of an article by Denny Bannister of the Missouri Farm Bureau entitled "Scars on Their Souls." I would like to submit this article and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD along with my remarks. Denny's words explain so well what it means to serve our country and why we owe our veterans so much. His sentiments should help us remember that we need to honor our men and women in uniform not just on Veterans Day, but every day of the year.

SCARS ON THEIR SOULS

Like many veterans, I belong to the American Foreign Legion post in my hometown. Most American Legion posts are similar—we have fish fries on Friday nights, Bingo on Wednesdays, barbecues in the summer, country music on the jukebox, and there's a faint odor of stale beer, cigarettes and popcorn in the hospitality room.

When Legionnaires remove their trinket-covered American Legion caps, there's a lot of gray hair to be seen—if there's any hair to be seen at all. America's wartime veterans are aging rapidly. We are playing taps far too much these days for our comrades from World War II.

This year commemorates the beginning of the Korean War 50 years ago. Like our World War II veterans, Korean War vets are decreasing in numbers, and now the Vietnam era vets are beginning to retire. We know we are next.

Give most vets half-a-chance and they will share their military experiences with other vets. Give some vets half-a-chance and they will share their military experiences with everyone.

But there are a few vets who don't share their military experiences with anyone.

Some of them sit quietly in a corner or at the end of the bar, not really talking to anyone. Others might mingle and socialize—until the subject turns to war memories. Then they quietly withdraw.

One of my dearest friends served in Vietnam. I served during the war, but he served in the war—there is a big difference. I have a lot of good memories about my military experiences, memories I like to remember. He has a lot of memories about his military experiences he would like to forget. As close as we are, he has never shared them with me.

Everyone who fought for their country in every war was wounded in some way or the other—physically, spiritually or emotionally. Some wounds are much more serious than others, and they don't always come from bullets.

I have seen the scars from the entry wounds on my friend's abdomen and the scars from exit wounds on his back. As painful as these wounds must have been, the most painful wounds he suffered in Vietnam left scars on his soul. Try as he might, he cannot drink them away.

Legion posts are not elegant country clubs where prospects need pull, position and

power to become members. Wealth is not an eligibility requirement. But for many of our veterans, the price for membership was terribly high.

Regardless of which era they come from, which war they served during or in, or which uniform they wore, our veterans deserve our heartfelt thanks—not only on Veterans Day, but every day we enjoy the freedoms they were willing to fight for. God bless them all.

HONORING LENNARD ECKHARDT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to praise an outstanding educator in Colorado, Lennard Eckhardt. For over two decades Lennard has served the Re-2 School District in Rifle, Colorado as both an Assistant Superintendent and as Superintendent. Recently Lennard, along with his colleague Larry McBride, announced they are retiring at the end of the school year. This will bring an end to a remarkable leadership team that has benefited the school district in immeasurable ways. As Lennard makes plans for his retirement I would like to honor his service as an educator and administrator.

Lennard was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming and attended school in Dix, Nebraska. After graduating from Dix High School, Lennard attended Colorado State College, now the University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley. After graduating with a degree in Physical Education and a minor in Social Studies, Lennard began his career in education. He first began teaching and coaching track in Fleming and Holyoke, Colorado before deciding to leave education and pursue private ventures in San Diego, California. His time in California was cut short by a phone call from an old friend with a job opportunity.

In 1977 Lennard was offered the position as principal of Riverside School in New Castle, Colorado. After serving as principal for two years he applied and was hired on as Assistant Superintendent. While serving in this capacity Lennard's natural ability to lead soon made him the prime candidate for the position of Superintendent and in 1987 he went on to become the head administrator of Re-2 School District.

For over twenty years Lennard, with Larry at his side, has fought hard to ensure that the young people of Rifle and its surrounding areas are receiving the highest quality education available. Over his tenure as administrator he has overcome great adversities ranging from the oil shale boom and bust of the early eighties to approving the first charter school in the district. Lennard has served his community admirably and on behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress I would like to thank Lennard for his immense contributions to education and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.